

1192 SAFETY ASSESSMENT

Chapter: **Child Protective Field Services**

Section: **CPS Family Assessments**



New Hampshire Division for Children, Youth and Families Policy Manual

Policy Directive: **08-03**

Approved:

Effective Date: **May 2008**

Scheduled Review Date:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maggie Bishop".

Maggie Bishop, Director

Related Statute(s): [RSA 169-C](#)

Related Admin Rule(s):

Related Federal Regulation(s):

Related Form(s):

Bridges' Screen(s) and Attachment(s):

Purpose

To describe the process and requirements of assessing referrals of child abuse and neglect. The primary goal of the assessment process is to ensure the safety of the child(ren).

Policy

- I. The immediate safety of the victim is of paramount importance. The [Safety Assessment](#) tool is completed before deciding to leave a child in the home and before returning a child to the home during an assessment. The Safety Assessment must be completed on all assessments assigned a response priority level within 24 hours of face-to-face contact with the alleged victim to guide decisions such as the following:
 - A. Whether or not the child(ren) may safely remain in the home;
 - B. The need for interventions to eliminate the threat of immediate harm; and
 - C. Whether the child(ren) must be removed from the home or remain in foster care placement.
- II. It is important to keep in mind the difference between safety and risk when completing the safety assessment. Safety assessments look at the child's present danger and the interventions currently needed to protect the child. Throughout the assessment period, and for open cases, whenever new information becomes available that threatens the safety of the child(ren); a Safety Assessment is completed immediately upon receipt of the new information. An additional safety assessment may be necessary upon receipt of an "add info." Risk assessments look at the likelihood of future abuse and/or neglect.
- III. The CPSW also must assess for the existence and/or the extent of underlying conditions that co-occur with the alleged child abuse or neglect, such as [domestic violence](#), substance abuse and mental health issues